

Senate Study Bill 3069 - Introduced

SENATE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON
VETERANS AFFAIRS BILL BY
CHAIRPERSON HORN)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act requiring that certain group health insurance coverage
2 for veterans include treatment for military sexual trauma
3 and suicidal tendencies, and including applicability date
4 provisions.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 514C.27, subsection 3, paragraph a, Code
2 2016, is amended to read as follows:

3 a. "*Mental illness*" means mental disorders as defined
4 by the commissioner by rule. For purposes of this section,
5 "*mental illness*" includes "*military sexual trauma*" and "*suicidal*
6 *tendencies*" as defined in this section and by the commissioner
7 by rule.

8 Sec. 2. Section 514C.27, subsection 3, Code 2016, is amended
9 by adding the following new paragraphs:

10 NEW PARAGRAPH. 0b. "*Military sexual trauma*" means
11 psychological trauma, which in the judgment of a mental health
12 professional, resulted from a physical assault of a sexual
13 nature, battery of a sexual nature, or sexual harassment
14 which occurred while the insured who is a veteran was serving
15 on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty
16 training.

17 NEW PARAGRAPH. 00b. "*Sexual harassment*" means repeated,
18 unsolicited verbal or physical contact of a sexual nature which
19 is threatening in character.

20 NEW PARAGRAPH. 0c. "*Suicidal tendencies*" means the actual
21 act of attempted suicide or tendencies, in the judgment of a
22 mental health professional, that an insured who is a veteran
23 may have or has the inclination to take the insured's own life.

24 Sec. 3. Section 514C.27, subsection 4, Code 2016, is amended
25 to read as follows:

26 4. a. The commissioner, by rule, shall define "*mental*
27 *illness*" consistent with definitions provided in the most recent
28 edition of the American psychiatric association's diagnostic
29 and statistical manual of mental disorders, as the definitions
30 may be amended from time to time. The commissioner may adopt
31 the definitions provided in such manual by reference.

32 b. The commissioner, by rule, shall define "*mental illness*"
33 to include "*military sexual trauma*" and "*suicidal tendencies*" as
34 defined in subsection 3 and consistent with 38 U.S.C. §1720D.

35 Sec. 4. Section 514C.27, Code 2016, is amended by adding the

1 following new subsection:

2 NEW SUBSECTION. 4A. Coverage benefits for the treatment of
3 military sexual trauma or suicidal tendencies for an insured
4 who is a veteran shall include medical and counseling services,
5 including suicide prevention services.

6 Sec. 5. APPLICABILITY. This Act applies to third-party
7 payment provider policies or contracts and to plans established
8 pursuant to chapter 509A delivered, issued for delivery,
9 continued, or renewed in this state on or after January 1,
10 2017.

11	EXPLANATION
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12 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
13 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

14 This bill requires that specified group health insurance
15 policies, contracts, or plans must provide treatment of
16 mental illness to insured veterans that includes treatment and
17 counseling for military sexual trauma that occurred while the
18 insured veteran was serving and for suicidal tendencies of
19 the insured veteran. The coverage must include medical and
20 counseling services, including suicide prevention services.

21 The bill applies to policies or contracts issued to an
22 employer that employs more than 50 full-time equivalent
23 employees, to policies or contracts issued to small employers
24 employing one to 50 employees if the policy or contract
25 includes coverage of mental illness, and to plans established
26 pursuant to Code chapter 509A for public employees. The bill
27 applies to such policies, contracts, or plans delivered, issued
28 for delivery, continued, or renewed in this state on or after
29 January 1, 2017.